

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 FISHERS LANE ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857-0003

RE: DOCKET NO. 98N-1265

To the FDA:

4923 '99 May 24 AM 11:59

I send this letter as a consumer of health care services to register my concern and disapproval of the Memorandum of Understanding as published by the FDA on January 21, 1999.

In its present form, the MOU, as well as the Compounding Section 503A of the Modernization Act, severely restricts the rights of the physicians and patients to obtain healthcare products from the provider of their choice. It also infringes on the rights of compounding pharmacists to serve the public's medical needs. As a healthcare consumer there should be no restrictions to the delivery of compounded medication prescribed for me, regardless of where I live or travel. The MOU must be amended!!!

The FDA is an agency of the U.S. Government that purports to be the "watchdog" for consumer safety. THIS IS NOT A SAFETY ISSUE!! As a governmental agency, the FDA also has a responsibility to be accountable to the people. Once again, the MOU must be amended!!

Signed: Nancy Pedersen
State of Residence: California

I have been greatly helped by the medications which are natural and compounded for me. The ~~the~~ Compounding pharmacy is out of state and I should have the right to continue receiving their products.

Who owns us: Ourselves? The government?



WALTER WILLIAMS
Syndicated columnist

Establishing general principles saves a lot of guesswork and confusion. In math, for example, we know if the length of one of the legs of a right triangle is 2 inches and the other is 2 inches, the hypotenuse (the longest side) is 2.8 inches.

What if the legs were 5 inches and 12 inches, what's the hypotenuse? Fortunately, we don't have to figure out the hypotenuse for every right triangle in the universe. There's a general principle or theorem given to us by Pythagoras that's applicable to any right triangle: "The square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the legs."

Is there a general principle for moral conduct among people, or is everything situational? Fortunately, there is a general principle. Our founders inherited that principle from philosophers such as John Locke and it's: Each person owns himself.

They captured the meaning of that principle simply and eloquently in our Declaration of Independence with the words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that

among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Some might find the idea of self-ownership offensive and instead believe that we belong to the government, and the president and Congress are our overseers. That being the case, what follows is wrong and irrelevant.

Let's apply the principle of self-ownership to the national debate on how to fix Social Security. Both Republican and Democrat plans to fix Social Security are misguided. This is easily seen if we take self-ownership seriously and ask a question or two.

What is the moral basis for Congress to force any person to set aside a specific portion of his earnings for retirement, whether it's Social Security or in a private account? You say, "Williams, retirement is important!"

But, so is housing, clothing and food. Should Congress force Americans to set aside a certain portion of their earnings for housing, clothing and food?

You say: "Williams, your idea of self-ownership can only go so far. Many people are too short-sighted. If they're not forced to put aside money for retirement, they'll spend now and later be a burden on the rest of us." Having to care for short-sighted people is a problem, but not one caused by self-ownership. It's a problem caused by socialism. There is absolutely no moral basis for government to take

one person's earnings to give to another for any reason, including his short-sightedness.

Now don't get me wrong. I don't have anything against people liking socialism. After all, self-ownership implies that you have the right to be a socialist.

My problem is that socialists use government intimidation, threats and coercion to force me to be a part of their agenda. If they went off and did their socialistic thing, and left me alone, I'd have no problem.

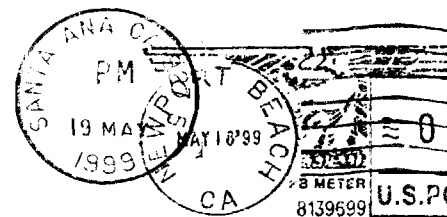
Based upon my unalienable right of self-ownership, I make the following declaration: I, Walter E. Williams, am an emancipated adult fully capable of tending to my own retirement needs. Should I fail to do so, I shall make no claim, in any form, on any American to tend to my needs. Therefore, I demand that the U.S. Congress return all monies previously confiscated and release me from any association with Social Security.

How much respect do you think such a liberty-oriented declaration would win among the American people and Congress? I might be wrong, but I think there's only one congressman who'd vote in support of it — Ron Paul, R-Texas. That's a sad commentary for a people who boast of their love of liberty.

Mr. Williams teaches economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

*This same principle
applies to our
medications.*

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